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AN INTERVIEW WITH SAMUEL ADAMS

BARBARA WALTERS: There has been a good deal of speculation that the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese will execute thousands and thousands of South Vietnamese if and when they win the war. Some even speculate that the number could be as many as a million people before this bloodbath ends.

Samuel Adams is a former CIA analyst and he has made a study of this alarming possibility for the CIA. He is in our Washington news center this morning with NBC News correspondent Douglas Kiker.

Good morning, Doug.

DOUGLAS KIKER: Good morning, Barbara.

Mr. Adams, you have estimated earlier that perhaps, not a million but perhaps as many as 100,000 South Vietnamese could be killed. How did you arrive at that figure and who are these people?

SAMUEL ADAMS: I primarily arrived at the figure by looking at Viet Cong documents in which they listed the type of people they wanted to bump off. And then found out how many of these people there were and then took sort of a half-beat guess at how many they'd actually....

KIKER: Well, it's not a haphazard list, is it?

ADAMS: Oh, absolutely not. No.

KIKER: How did they -- who's -- who's on the list, first of all.

ADAMS: Well, you would certainly have President Thieu, just starting at the top, then South Vietnamese policemen, particularly in the special branch, the military security service people, people that worked for the Phoenix program.

KIKER: What is that?